



SEVENTH ANNUAL \* JUNE 9-12, 2005  
[www.waterfrontfilm.org](http://www.waterfrontfilm.org)

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**Film Festival Volunteers get more than a t-shirt for their efforts**

SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN – “You might be bagging popcorn one minute and talking to a celebrity the next. You never know” says volunteer Judy Whyment of her Waterfront Film Festival volunteer experience. She drives an hour each way and schedules her vacation time well in advance to be sure she can be available during the festival weekend. Looking forward to her fourth year as a volunteer, she is not the only familiar face one might see from year to year.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Waterfront Film Festival will be held June 9-12 this year in Saugatuck, Michigan. With six solid years under their belt, the volunteer experience along with every other aspect of the event has become better, and more organized. And that’s no short order when one considers that the festival is run completely by volunteers. They are people who are passionate about film arts, travel, or just want to be involved in one of West Michigan’s most exciting events. Many volunteers travel hundreds of miles just to be a part of the fun from year to year.

Volunteers recruit their friends for the shared experience. Many stay for the entire weekend to view as many films as they can between their assignments. “Every year is different,” says Amy Miller, a real estate broker and licensed builder in Grand Rapids, who once a year transforms into a mastermind of festival project management. “Last year we set up the opening night street party, then, due to a torrential downpour, we tore it all down, moved it to the boathouse, and set it up all over again. Everyone pitched in, soaking wet, and the event was bigger and better than ever before.”

The opportunity to talk directly with the producers and directors abound due to the informal atmosphere and the people-friendly events between films such a seminars, question and answer periods, a wine tasting and a street party – all of which are open to festival-goers.

Many volunteers are still needed both in the weeks preceding the festival and during the festival itself. Office help includes answering phones, selling tickets and merchandise, and running errands. Up to 20 people are needed per shift for set-up and tear-down, audio/visual technicians, CDL (commercial drivers license) drivers, the street party, concessions, and ticket takers during the festival. Shifts are generally five hours long.

Young or old, if you love independent film, many of which may not be shown in Michigan again, volunteer for the Waterfront Film Festival, June 9-12. A volunteer application can be found on the festival web site: [www.waterfrontfilm.org](http://www.waterfrontfilm.org)

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FESTIVAL FOUNDERS

Dana DePree • Dori DePree • Hopwood DePree • Kori Eldean • Judy Smith

## **Volunteers Needed (page 2)**

Saugatuck, located midway between Detroit and Chicago is considered one of the top 20 arts and crafts destinations in the U.S. This charming village known as the Art Coast of Michigan is nestled in the beautiful white sand dunes of Lake Michigan and curled around an inland bay. With its beautiful beaches, diverse shopping, eclectic cuisine and nightlife – all within easy access of festival venues - the area's relaxed atmosphere has charmed visitors for nearly a century. For more information, visit the official festival Website at [www.waterfrontfilm.org](http://www.waterfrontfilm.org).

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